

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A pallet arrangement, ~~preferably of the type~~ intended for one-time use only, comprising an upper deck plate (2), bottom runners (3) and spacer elements (4) located between the upper deck plate (2) and the bottom runners (3) and functioning as pallet feet, said spacer elements (4) ~~having the form of supportive~~ comprising tubular spacer elements (5) and being fixed positionally in relation to the upper deck plate (2) against locking flaps (8) folded out from circular fold lines (7) punched in said upper deck plate (2), through ~~the medium of the~~ an inner cylindrical surface (6) of a corresponding one of said tubular spacer ~~element~~ elements, said locking flaps (8) being in turn, clamped firmly between the tubular spacer elements (5) and locking tubes (10) pressed from above into openings (9) formed in the upper deck plate (2) by punching-out and folding down said locking flaps (8), ~~characterized in wherein:~~

~~that the bottom runners (3) are comprised of top~~ upper and ~~bottom~~ lower U-shaped pallet runners (13, 14) which are joined together with their respective legs (18-21) facing towards each other at the same time as ~~the~~ legs (18, 19) of the upper pallet runners extend over and are affixed to ~~the~~ legs (20, 21) of the lower pallet runners; and ~~in~~

~~that the upper pallet runners (13) include apertures (12) for coaction with which~~ engagingly receive the tubular spacer elements (5), ~~the~~ lower free ends (11) of which are affixed to ~~the~~ an inner bottom surface (16) of the lower pallet runners (14) with the aid of an adhesive (15).

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The pallet arrangement according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the locking flaps (8) have a length which enables the locking flaps to be clamped firmly between the inner ~~barrel-cylindrical~~ surface (6) of the tubular spacer elements (5) and the locking tubes (10) pressed into said tubular spacer elements (5).

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The pallet arrangement according to Claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~wherein a length of the locking flaps (8) is slightly smaller than half ~~the~~an inner diameter of the tubular spacer elements (5) or corresponds to half of said diameter; and ~~in that~~wherein ~~length of the locking tubes (10) may vary and that~~ the diameter of said locking tubes is slightly smaller than the inner diameter of the tubular spacer elements (5).

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The pallet arrangement according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the locking flaps (8) are sectorial in shape with ~~the~~a base of respective sectors forming the ~~circumferential-circular~~ fold lines (7).

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The pallet arrangement ~~aeording~~according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein bottom edges (25) of respective locking tubes (10) are ~~able~~operative to coact lockingly with flap formations (22) which project out from ~~the~~a packaging material placed on the pallet (1) and which are provided with locking hooks or barbs (23, 24) that engage with the bottom edges (25) of respective locking tubes (10), such as to hold the packaging material firmly in position on said pallet.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The pallet arrangement according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the upper deck plate (2) is comprised of corrugated fibreboard that has a thickness of about 7 mm; and ~~in that wherein~~ the tubular spacer elements (5), the locking tubes (10) and the bottom runners (3) are comprised of solid board.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a pallet, ~~preferably a pallet intended~~ for one-time use only, comprising an upper deck plate (2), bottom runners (3), and spacer elements (4) located between the upper deck plate (2) and the bottom runners and functioning as pallet feet, ~~characterized by wherein~~, before mounting of the spacer elements (4) having the form of tubular spacer elements (5) below the upper deck plate (2), the ~~steps of~~method comprising:

punching in the upper deck plate (2), with the aid of punch knives, apertures or openings (9) that present sectorial locking flaps (8) having respective outer, circumferentially extending weakenings in the form of fold lines (7);

folding the locking flaps (8) down along said fold lines (7) into abutment with ~~the~~an inner ~~barrel~~cylindrical surface (6) of respective tubular spacer elements (5) ~~and;~~

fixing said locking flaps in abutment with said ~~barrel~~inner cylindrical surface (6) with the aid of locking tubes (10) that ~~can be~~are pressed down through the openings (9) punched in said upper deck plate, said locking flaps (8) affixing the position of respective tubular spacer elements (5) with the aid of said locking tubes (10), ~~by glueing the bottom runners (3) firmly to the free ends (11) of the tubular spacer elements (5);~~

forming the bottom runners (3) of upper and lower U-shaped pallet runners (13, 14) by joining together respective pallet runner legs (18-21) facing towards each other such that the legs

(18, 19) of the upper pallet runners extend over and are affixed to the legs (20, 21) of the lower pallet runners;

forming apertures (12) in the upper pallet runners (13);

inserting free ends (11) of the tubular spacer elements (5), into the apertures (12); and

affixing the free ends (11) to an inner bottom surface (16) of the lower runners (14) with the aid of an adhesive (15).